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EXPORTS OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL
MATERIALS FROM THE SOVIET BLOC

1. The exportation of capital equipment and industrial materials by the Soviet bloc is a continuing phenomenon, though only scattered instances have engaged the attention of the EDAC Community. A number of traditional East-West trade patterns are of this type; for instance, Hungarian exports of transport equipment, chiefly to France. It is suggested that EDIC periodically review such trade, with a view to detecting possibly significant changes (e.g., in amount, commodity composition or free-world countries involved). In the past, reports indicating major changes have led EDIC to study Soviet bloc exports of petroleum (IWG Case # 72) and of manganese, chrome, platinum and palladium (IWG Case # 60).

2. Soviet bloc motives for exporting strategic commodities appear to be complex and varied. It may be assumed that they always include considerations of tactics, including psychological effect. Moreover, the Soviet bloc is presumably willing to export any commodity in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, something else which it values more. Hence, valid conclusions as to the Soviet bloc supply position in particular commodities can hardly be drawn from the pattern of Soviet bloc exports alone, still less from trade-agreement commitments, offers or propaganda statements.

3. There follows a tabulation, obtained from Foreign Service monthly reports for 1953 and 1954, of capital equipment and industrial materials imported from the Soviet bloc by Belgium-Luxembourg. The commodity descriptions given in these reports are not precise enough to establish whether they include items on the International Lists. Nevertheless, each commodity has been assigned the IL number of the strategic commodity which appears to fall within the reported description. Finally, these imports constitute a very small and not necessarily representative sample, and are cited for illustration only.

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SELECTED IMPORTS BY BELGIUM-LUXEMBOURG
FROM THE SOVIET BLOC
1953 and 1954

1953

<u>IL No.</u>	<u>Commodity Description</u>	<u>Amount in Metric Tons</u>	<u>Value in thousands of Belgian francs</u>	<u>Exporting Country</u>
MC	Ordnance (items not specified)	--	150	Czechoslovakia
MC	Ordnance	--	195	East Germany
MC	Explosives	--	37	Hong Kong
1450	Bodies, chassis, frames, etc., for road motor vehicles	--	503	Czechoslovakia
1450	Chassis with engines mounted	--	2	USSR
1450	Bodies, chassis, frames, etc., for road motor vehicles	--	15	USSR
1450	Chassis with engines mounted	14	662	East Germany
1450	Bodies, chassis, frames, etc., for road motor vehicles	--	439	East Germany
1630	Iron & steel scrap	51	83	Poland
1650	Copper & copper alloys in bars, etc.	--	12	East Germany

-2-
S-E-C-R-E-T

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EDIC/ID-13
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<u>IL No.</u>	<u>Commodity Description</u>	<u>Amount in Metric Tons</u>	<u>Value in thousands of Belgian francs</u>	<u>Exporting Country</u>
1772	Gas oil, diesel oil & other fuel oils	34,589	21,386	Rumania
1820	Rubber tires & tubes for vehicles & aircraft	--	24	East Germany
2430	Iron & steel wire, coated or not	3	2	Poland
2430	Wire cables, ropes, etc.	1	35	Poland
2430	Iron & steel wire, coated or not	--	1	East Germany
2601	Ball, needle or roller bearings & parts	--	8	Czechoslovakia
2601	Ball, needle or roller bearings & parts	--	2	East Germany
2650	Lead ore & concentrates	150	675	Hong Kong
		Total	24,231	

1954

MC	Ordnance (item not specified)	1	484	Czechoslovakia
MC	Explosives	5	109	East Germany
MC	Explosives	-	6	Red China
MC	Explosives	7	260	Hong Kong

-3-
~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~
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EDIC/ID-13
Attachment

<u>IL No.</u>	<u>Commodity Description</u>	<u>Amount in Metric Tons</u>	<u>Value in thousands of Belgian francs</u>	<u>Exporting Country</u>
1450	Bodies, chassis, frames, & other parts for road motor vehicles except parts for motorcycles & side cars	25	1,275	Czechoslovakia
1450	Bodies, chassis, frames, etc., for road motor vehicles	1	146	USSR
1450	Bodies, chassis, frames, etc., for road motor vehicles	130	5,976	East Germany
1630	Iron & steel scrap	111	130	USSR
1630	Iron & steel scrap	244	391	East Germany
1770	Petroleum, crude & partly refined	--	1	USSR
1772	Gas oil, diesel oil & other fuels	147,071	84,013	Rumania
1772	Motor fuels, gas & other light oils including gas blending agents	1,431	1,773	USSR
1796	Coke	3,123	1,709	USSR
1801- 1802 *	Crude rubber, including synthetic & reclaimed	3	78	East Germany
1801- 1802 *	Crude rubber, including synthetic & reclaimed	--	1	Hong Kong

* Synthetic rubber and unvulcanized rubber compounds

-4-
~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

S-E-C-R-E-T
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EDIC/ID-13
Attachment

<u>IL No.</u>	<u>Commodity Description</u>	<u>Amount in Metric Tons</u>	<u>Value in thousands of Belgian francs</u>	<u>Exporting Country</u>
1820	Rubber tires & tubes for vehicles & aircraft	--	38	Czechoslovakia
1820	Rubber tires & tubes for vehicles & aircraft	--	31	East Germany
2601	Ball, needle, or roller bearings & parts	--	38	Czechoslovakia
2601	Ball, needle, or roller bearings & parts	1	9	Poland
2601	Ball, needle, or roller bearings & parts	--	11	East Germany
2650	Lead ore & concentrates	126	541	Hong Kong
		Total	97,020	

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